

Please replace claim 5 with the following:

A³
5. (amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 wherein said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 10 to about 15% by weight of papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension.

Please replace claim 7 with the following:

A⁴
7. (amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 wherein the temperature of said heated air is at least about 190°C.

Please cancel claim 8.

Please replace claim 9 with the following:

A⁵
9. (amended) A process as set forth in claim 7 wherein the temperature of said heated air is from about 190° to about 210°C.

Please replace claims 12 with the following:

12. (amended) A process for making a cellulosic paper product, the process comprising:

A⁶
forming an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers;
introducing sodium bicarbonate into said aqueous suspension;
depositing said aqueous suspension onto a sheet-forming fabric to form a wet web, said sodium bicarbonate being introduced into said aqueous suspension prior to depositing said aqueous suspension onto said sheet-forming fabric; and through-drying said wet web by passing heated air through said wet web.

Please cancel claims 21 and 22.

Please add the following new claims 23-25.

23. (new) A process for manufacturing a cellulosic paper product, the process comprising:

forming an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers;

introducing sodium bicarbonate into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 10 to about 15% by weight of papermaking fibers present in said aqueous suspension;

depositing said aqueous suspension onto a sheet-forming fabric to form a wet web, said sodium bicarbonate being introduced into said aqueous suspension prior to depositing said aqueous suspension onto said sheet-forming fabric; and
dewatering and drying said wet web.

A1
24. (new) A process as set forth in claim 23 wherein said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 12 to about 13% by weight of papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension.

25. (new) A process as set forth in claim 23 wherein said wet web is through-dried by passing heated air through said wet web.
